

Message Text

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DEPARTMENT FOR AF/W: PASS SMITHSONIAN: INFO CU/AF, USIA, IAA

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: SCUL

SUB: GHANAIAI PARTICIPATION SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

REF: STATE 125968, ACCRA 3156, 3167

1. SMITHSONIAN'S ELIMINATION POST-FESTIVAL TOUR FOR GHANAIAI CONTINGENT REPRESENTS A NEW AND UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT. NEWS RECEIVED WITH DEGREE OF DISAPPOINTMENT BY OOG AND WULOMEI SPONSORS, PARTICULARLY SINCE LATTER ARE PRIVATELY FINANCING INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TO EXPOSE WULOMEI TO AMERICAN AUDIENCES FOR POSSIBLE COMMERCIAL TOUR IN FALL 1974. NEW DEVELOPMENT PROMPTS TWO QUESTIONS TO WHICH IMMEDIATE REPLY REQUESTED: A) IF SPONSORS WITHDRAW FROM PROJECT, COULD SMITHSONIAN FIANCE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FROM FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE BY HAVING ELIMINATED POST-FESTIVAL TOUR? B) WULOMEI DIRECTOR SAKA ACQUAYE HOPEFUL THAT SHOULD PRESENT SPONSORS WITHDRAW AND SMITHSONIAN BE UNABLE FINANCE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, THAT OTHER PRIVATE GHANAIAI BACKERS CAN BE FOUND. WOULD VISAS ISSUED TROUPE PERMIT ONE OR TWO WEEK EXTENSION OF STAY IN US, AT OWN EXPENSE, FOR PRIVATELY ARRANGED COMMERCIAL PERFORMANCES?

2. FOR TIME BEING, GOG STILL COMMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN SMITHSONIAN FESTIVAL. WE NEED ANSWERS TO QUESTION A AND B TO HAVE SOME FLEXIBILITY SHOULD IT APPEAR THAT PROJECT IS COLLAPSING FOR LACK OF TRAVEL FUNDS. HANSON

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